

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and celebrate the outstanding service of Eskaton Monroe Lodge on its 40th Anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join me in celebrating Eskaton Monroe Lodge, its residents, staff and volunteers as they celebrate the valuable contributions Eskaton Monroe Lodge has made to supporting Sacramento's seniors.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the Atlantic hurricane season begins, a time when many of our National Guards will be deployed to various parts of the country, I introduce a bill that would give the mayor of the District of Columbia authority over deploying the D.C. National Guard, after consultation with the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, with the President retaining authority on federal matters. In local emergencies, including natural disasters and civil disturbances unrelated to national or homeland security, the mayor of the District of Columbia should have the same authority that governors exercise over the National Guard in their states. Each governor, as head of state, has the authority to mobilize the National Guard to protect his or her state, just as local militia did historically.

The National Guards in the 50 states operate under dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet only the President and the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard currently have the authority to deploy the D.C. National Guard for local and national purposes, respectively. Today, by far the most likely need for the D.C. National Guard here would be for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, and to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances. The mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and who works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call on the D.C. National Guard for local natural disasters and civil disturbances, after consultation with the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard. The President should be focused on national matters, including homeland security, not local D.C. matters. Homeland security authority, with respect to the D.C. National Guard, would remain the sole province of the President, along with the power to nationalize the D.C. National Guard for federal matters at will. It does no harm to give the mayor this authority for civil disturbances and natural disasters. However, it could do significant harm to leave the mayor powerless to act quickly. If it makes sense that governors would have control over the mobilization and deployment of their National Guard, it makes equal sense for the mayor of the District of Columbia, with a population the size of a small state, to have the same authority.

The mayor of the District of Columbia, as head of state, should have the authority to deploy the D.C. National Guard in instances that do not rise to the level of homeland defense activities. My bill permits the mayor to only deploy the D.C. National Guard after consultation with the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard. The bill is another important step toward completing the transfer of full self-gov-

ernment powers to the District of Columbia. Congress began that process with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973, when it delegated most of its authority over District agencies to the District of Columbia. The bill follows that model.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

TAYLOR BAXLEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Taylor Baxley for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Taylor Baxley is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Taylor Baxley is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Taylor Baxley for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF US SOUTHCOM

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate US SOUTHCOM on the 50th anniversary, today June 11th. For the past five decades this command has protected and defended the privileges, comforts and freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy.

We are fortunate and privileged to have General John Kelly as the new Commander of United States Southern Command. His distinguished career and exemplary service to our nation is a testament to the ideals of honor, courage, and commitment. SOUTHCOM has continued to grow and thrive in South Florida with its 1,200 SOUTHCOM employees. These individuals have dedicated their lives to the service of others and truly embody the heart and spirit of America. I thank each and every one of them for their efforts as well as the good they provide throughout the hemisphere.

Today, SOUTHCOM celebrates half a century of excellence and service to the citizens of the United States. Over these years, many brave men and women in uniform have worked tirelessly to keep us safe while also promoting peace, security, and democracy throughout the Western Hemisphere. From combating international crime syndicates and drug lords, to monitoring human rights and providing humanitarian relief, SOUTHCOM has a proven track record of achievement. Its successful efforts in counter-terrorism and in

combating illicit trafficking across this hemisphere have helped to promote democracy abroad and has encouraged respect for human rights. SOUTHCOM certainly remains a beacon of strength and resilience throughout the region.

Shortly before the United States entered the Second World War, President Roosevelt established the U.S. Caribbean Defense Command with the goal of defending the Panama Canal and the surrounding area. Following the conclusion of the war, the U.S. Caribbean Defense Command was renamed the U.S. Southern Command. The new name was intended to reflect the command's changed responsibilities with an emphasis of ensuring security, stability, and prosperity throughout Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean.

SOUTHCOM encompasses six major mission areas, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as well as assisting our allies in the region and while promoting military-to-military interaction. Its successful efforts in counter-terrorism and in combating illicit trafficking across this hemisphere is key to regional stability even while it continues to be a leader in medical assistance, providing quality medical care for schools and community centers. I know many individuals still remember the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, in which SOUTHCOM took the lead in humanitarian effort on the ground that undoubtedly saved thousands.

SOUTHCOM has had a tremendous impact on our local economy in South Florida and I applaud its efforts to give back to our community. Congratulations again to SOUTHCOM on its 50th anniversary. I look forward to working with General Kelly and his wonderful team in South Florida. Thank you again for all that you do.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2216, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2217, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 243, the rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 2216, the Fiscal Year 2014 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act and H.R. 2217, the Fiscal Year 2014 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act because it deems the draconian and harmful Ryan budget as law. We should be using this opportunity to pass a budget, in consultation with the Senate, which will get the economy back on the right track in this new fiscal year. I stand before you today to express my opposition to the Ryan budget and thereby my opposition to the rule that deems this budget passed.

The Ryan budget is an economic catastrophe of this Tea Party majority's choosing.